

(Re)thinking “Soviet”: Modern Ukrainian Identity and the Legacy of Communism

Course director: Olena Palko (University of Basel)

Head of Mentors: Julia Elena Grieder (University of Basel)

In the last decade, the Ukrainian parliament has issued two laws outlining the legal framework for dealing with the Russian imperial and Soviet past. These laws have sparked numerous scholarly debates on how to address the imperial past, Ukraine's status as part of the Romanov Empire and the Soviet Union, and what to do with the cultural products created over the centuries.

This course aims to explore the Soviet legacy in present-day Ukraine and provide students with the necessary theoretical and methodological tools for studying, researching, and writing about Soviet history and culture. The implications for modern Ukrainian identity and politics, particularly in the context of the ongoing war with Russia, will be examined.

The course will be divided into three blocks. The first block will examine novel theoretical approaches to studying and writing about the Soviet past, as well as examine parallels with other Soviet republics. The second block will delve into Soviet history and its significance for Ukraine's identity formation, covering key topics such as the Holodomor, the Second World War, and late socialism. The third block will focus on the cultural heritage from the Soviet era and its place in the Ukrainian national canon.

25.09.2024	<i>Introduction and discussion (Olena and Julia)</i>
02.10.2024	Tim Blauvelt: Soviet Nationality Policy and its Consequences in the South Caucasus
09.10.2024	Yulia Yurchuk: Transformations in the Politics of Memory in Ukraine from 1990s to the present
16.10.2024	Natalya Chernyshova: The Legacy of Late Socialism in Belarus
23.10.2024	Botakoz Kassymbekova: Soviet Empire through a Settler Colonial Lens
30.10.2024	<i>Block theories connections parallels plenary discussions (Olena and Julia)</i>
06.11.2024	Matthew Pauly: The Contradictory Politics of Sovietisation in the 1920s
13.11.2024	Fabian Baumann: Banal Nationalism in Late Soviet Ukraine
20.11.2024	Daria Mattingly: The Holodomor. Why is it still relevant today?
27.11.2024	Kateryna Botanova: Lessons in Critical Thinking: 1960s Generation (Shistdesyatnyky) and Their Legacy in Ukraine After 2015
04.12.2024	Vitaly Chernetsky: The Procrustean Bed of the Soviet Literary Canon and Its Lasting Consequences: Ukraine as a Case Study
11.12.2024	<i>final discussion and research seminar (Olena and Julia)</i>

Invisible University for Ukraine

Fall semester AY 2024/2025

Academic calendar

- 12 September – Application deadline
- 16-17 September – Curriculum development workshop in Jena
- 23 September – IUFU Opening Session
- 24 September – notification on stipend awards
- 24 September – beginning of IUFU online classes
- 7 October – beginning of IUFU mentoring sessions
- 10 November – midterm assessment deadline
- 20 December – end of online classes
- 20 January – deadline for student projects
- 15 February – deadline for course grades

WEDNESDAY

5. p.m. CET

Rethinking Soviet. Soviet Legacy and Modern Ukrainian Identity

Time: Sep 25, 2024 05:00 PM Budapest

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ceu-edu.zoom.us/j/99821600387?pwd=qrFI3hXV9PqrQ47p6YM9qWEAr0PGGb.1>

Meeting ID: 998 2160 0387

Passcode: 535087